"METHOD FOR DETECTING OF HIV ANTIBODIES AND ANTIGENS USED THEREIN."

Please cancel claims 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, 29, and 30.

Kindly add new claims 34-43, as follows:

34. (New) An immunoassay method for detection of an antibody against HIV comprising:

providing a sample suspected of containing an antibody against HIV;

contacting said sample with at least one antigen mixture selected from the group consisting of (a) a mixture of an antigen from an epitope region II, amino acids 518-533, of an HIV1-subtype D isolate, and an antigen from the epitope region II of gp41 of a different HIV1 subtype of the M group, and (b) a mixture of an antigen from epitope region I, amino acids 551-565, of an HIV1-subtype E isolate, and an antigen derived from an epitope region I of gp41 of a different HIV1 subtype of the M group, characterized in that an antigen in said mixture binds to said antibody; and

detecting a signal generated as a measure of said HIV antibody in the sample.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein antigen mixture (a) is selected and wherein said antigen of an HIV1-subtype D isolate corresponds to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said sample comprises a member selected from the group consisting of blood, plasma, serum, urine, and saliva.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein at least one antigen in the antigen mixture selected is bound to a solid phase.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising separating a solid phase from the sample prior to measuring an amount of the HIV antibody in the sample.

39. (New) An antigen mixture comprising an antigen from the epitope region II, amino acids 518-533, of an HIV1-subtype D isolate, and an antigen from the epitope region II of gp41 of a different HIV1-subtype of the group M.

40. (New) The antigen mixture of claim 39, wherein said antigen of an HIV1-subtype D isolate corresponds to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39.

41. (New) The antigen mixture of claim 39, further comprising an antigen from epitope region I, amino acids 570-584, or epitope region II, amino acids 581-596, of HIV1-subtype O.

42. (New) A reagent for the detection of an antibody against HIV by means of an immunoassay comprising the antigen mixture of claim 39.

43. (New) An immunoassay method for detection of an antibody against HIV comprising:

providing a sample suspected of containing an antibody against HIV;

contacting said sample with an antigen comprising a ten amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39, characterized in that said antigen is bound to a label which generates a detectable signal when the antigen is bound to said antibody; and

detecting the signal generated as a measure of said HIV antibody in the sample.